GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7862
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2002
DISMANTLING OF TARIFF AND NON-TARIFF BARRIERS
SUBODH MOHITE

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States of America has urged the Indian Government to dismantle all tariff and non-tariff barriers restricting imports of farm products in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) the present status of Indo-US trade particularly of agriculture produce; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to increase it?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a), (b) & (c): US in its National Trade Estimate Report 2002 has raised concerns over high tariff rates, canalisation, and strict SPS requirements on some farm products. US Government has been informed about the reduction in tariff, removal of all QRs except for a small negative list. They have acknowledged the actions taken by the Government will benefit some US industries.

(d) : The export of agricultural products to USA was Rs. 70777.86 lakhs (2000-01).

(e): Participation in trade fairs, buyer-seller meets, information dissemination etc. are some of the steps being taken to increase exports.